

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

# SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

LONG ASHTON

*RURAL DISTRICT,*

FOR THE YEAR 1904.



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# Medical Officer's Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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TO THE

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

Long Ashton Rural District Council.

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LONG ASHTON,

*January, 1905.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to place before you my Report on the Sanitary Condition of the District during the year 1904.

The calculations as to Births, Deaths, and Sickness are based upon a population of 15,689 (census 1901).

### Births.

The Births in the year were 398, giving a rate of 25.30 per thousand population. Last year the rate was 22.436.

#### A

In the "Long Ashton District," comprising the Parishes of :—

		BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
Long Ashton	...			
Backwell	...			
Bishopsworth	...			
Barrow Gurney	...			
Dundry	...	83	78	161
Flax Bourton	...			
Winford	...			
Workhouse	...			
Wraxall	...			

#### B

"St. George's District," comprising the Parishes of :—

			Were registered.
Abbot's Leigh	...		
Clapton	...		
Easton-in-Gordano	...	51	74
Portbury	...		
Walton-in-Gordano	...		
Weston-in-Gordano	...		

#### C

"Yatton District," comprising the Parishes of :—

Yatton	...		
Nailsea	...		
Kenn	...	54	58
Tickenham	...		
Brockley	...		
Kingston Seymour	...		

— 188 — 210 — 398 —

The excess of Births over Deaths (natural increase of population) 156.

## Deaths.

The Deaths in the whole District at all ages and from all causes were 242, the rate being 15.424. The rate last year was 12.429.

In the Long Ashton District, including					Were registered.
Workhouse (26)	...	...	...	105	
St. George's District	...	...	...	68	
Yatton District ...	...	...	...	69	
242					}

## Infant Mortality.

During the year 398 children were born, of whom 51 died under one year, giving an Infant Death Rate of 128.14.

The rate last year was 56.818.

## Zymotic Diseases.

The Death Rate per 1,000 from Zymotic Diseases is .50.

Whooping Cough	...	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	..	..	...	4
				—
				8

## Sickness.

Under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 88 cases were reported to me.

- 14 cases of Diphtheria.
- 3 cases of Erysipelas.
- 70 cases of Scarlet Fever.
- 1 case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

—

88

The number reported in 1903 was 37.

## Scarlet Fever.

In proportion to the population a large number of Scarlet Fever cases occurred, 70 cases having been notified, as against 21 cases last year. There were no deaths. Of these 40 occurred in the Long Ashton District, 16 in the Yatton District, and 14 in the St. George's District.

The preponderance of cases in the Long Ashton District is due to the outbreak at Bishopsworth, where a main sewer was under repair, and the children played around it both on their way to and from school.

The difficulties in dealing with the epidemic have been the mildness of the attack, the cases apparently recovering in a few days and then mixing with healthy children; also the impossibility of isolating cases in their own homes, their friends being allowed to come in and out of the infected houses.

There can be no doubt that many cases existed which were never seen by a medical man and never notified under the Act, and these are a great source of danger.

The Sanitary Inspector has great difficulty in disinfecting houses where the rooms open one into the other or upon the stairs, and this difficulty is increased by the number of small articles about a house, such as rags, linen, books, &c.

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## Enteric Fever.

There was only one case notified in the Yatton District, and this died.

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## Diphtheria.

Fourteen cases were notified, three in the Long Ashton and eleven in the Yatton District.

There were no deaths.

## **Small Pox.**

None.

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## **Measles.**

This disease is not included in the notifiable diseases in this District.

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## **Whooping Cough.**

This disease has been prevalent during the year. Three deaths were registered from it.

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## **Heart Disease.**

There were 27 deaths from this disease, 2 between 5 and 15, 7 between 25 and 65, and 18 over 65.

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## **Lung Disease.**

Bronchitis and Pneumonia 22 deaths—9 from Bronchitis, 13 from Pneumonia.

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## **Influenza.**

There was one death registered from this disease.

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## **Phthisis.**

Thirteen deaths were registered from this disease. In my previous Reports I have mentioned the causes of the spread of this disease, and the general precautions to be observed in its prevention.

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## **Diarrhoea.**

There were four deaths registered from this disease, all children under one year.

## **Causes affecting the Health of the District.**

1st—Bad water supply in some of the parishes ; wells, as a rule, shallow and often polluted with soakage from highly manured soil ; wells in proximity to pigsties.

2nd—Inattention to cesspits and drains, where they exist.

3rd—Want of fire-places in bedrooms for warmth in sickness and for ventilation at all times.

4th—Over-crowding.—There are not enough cottages for the working classes in the district.

5th—The difficulty arising in country districts from the scarcity of proper nursing, from ignorance of the use of proper disinfectants, and from a general indisposition on the part of the people to avail themselves of Public Institutions.

6th—The impossibility of isolating the patients and the difficulty of disinfecting and properly carrying out sanitary measures in crowded cottages.

7th—More than all, the reckless way in which parents allow children recovered from infectious disease to return to school or play with healthy children.

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## **Work Done.**

The advice given and measures taken have been directed towards the abatement and removal of the evils which I have mentioned.

The schools at Bishopsworth and Failand were closed for a time on account of Scarlet Fever.

In infectious cases, isolation and disinfection were carried out as far as the means at our disposal allowed.

This consisted in the burning of sulphur in closed rooms, in cleansing the walls and ceilings, boiling all clothing that admitted of it, and in burning what cannot be treated with sulphur or boiling.

The distribution of disinfectants supplied to the Inspector by the Council.

Samples of water have been analysed and dealt with as the case required.

There is an Isolation Hospital for 12 beds near the Workhouse. It would be well if this could be made available for the Long Ashton District, as it has not been used by the Workhouse authorities for over five years.

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### **Industries.**

At Winford there are Mines for raising Iron Ore and Ochre. I can trace no illness arising from the use of the drinking water of that part of the District.

There are Coal Mines at Ashton, also a Steam Laundry.

There is no important industry, other than Agriculture, carried on in the rural villages.

At Pill a large portion of the inhabitants is engaged in a seafaring life.

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### **Geology of the Area.**

Yatton, Chelvey, Brockley, Bourton, Long Ashton, Portbury Village, St. George's, Clapton, Winford, Portishead (a lower part), Weston, and Walton, and Wood and Bella Vista, Clevedon—*New Red Sand Stone*.

Barrow Gurney Village, Broadfield Down, Bedminster Down.—*Lias*.

Cadbury, Backwell and Barrow Hill, Charlton Farm, Moat House and Lime Bridge, Walton Down, Highdale, Clevedon, Dial Hill.—*Carboniferous Lime Stone*.

Portbury Marsh and Kingston Seymour—*Alluvial*.

Failand House and Portishead Down—*Old Red Sand Stone*.

Nailsea Coal Measures run from Wraxall Mill round by Jackland's Bridge, thence to the West End of Nailsea, Nailsea Court, South Common, Smoky Hole, and East End.

### Long Ashton Brook.

The Council have made a third application to the Local Government Board for a Loan to carry out a scheme of Sewerage to prevent the pollution of the Ashton Brook, and are now awaiting their reply.

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### Yatton Water.

The Local Government Board have held a Local Inquiry as to the proposed Water Supply for the Parish of Yatton, but the Council have not yet heard any result.

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### Water Supply.

There has been no alteration in the Water Supply of the District during the past year. A considerable part of it is supplied by the Bristol, Portishead, and Clevedon Water Companies.

Mr. Edgar Thatcher, of the Nailsea Heath Brewery, still continues to supply part of Nailsea gratuitously with splendid water from a large tank near his house.

The West End of Nailsea has not a good supply of water. An effort might be made to obtain some from the old Coal Pits.

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I would call the attention of the Rural District Council to the fact that there is at present no provision for dealing with Infectious Cases occurring in the District, the arrangement with Bristol as to taking patients into the Ham Green Hospital and the Novers having now expired.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is bound up with mine.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOSEPH FULLER,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Long Ashton  
Rural District Council.*

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GENTLEMEN.

In presenting to you my Annual Report for the past year, there is not much of particular importance to which I need draw your attention. I have been kept busy during the year by various items at different parts of the District, the only portion claiming any special attention being Bishopsworth, where the sewer became choked owing to the very little fall given to it when it was laid.

In connection with this chokage I may say that I attribute the cause of the recent outbreak of Scarlet Fever at Bishopsworth to be owing to the fact that a lot of children would come playing around the open sewer while it was being cleansed ; the workmen could not keep them away.

In reference to the cases of Scarlet Fever just referred to, there have been several cases during the later part of the year at Bishopsworth, and the first cases cropped up soon after the sewer was opened for cleansing purposes. As to the number of cases, I presume that will be reported in the Medical Officer of Health's Report. The epidemic seems now to have run its course.

In the event of infectious disease existing, the usual precautions have been taken, as to isolation, where practical, supplying of disinfectants, fumigation, etc., but some of the earlier cases existed some time before being found out, and the Medical Officer of Health and myself considered as to whether it was advisable to summon one or two people for

not notifying the cases, but, as Dr. Fuller said, they would plead ignorance of the nature of the illness, so we thought a warning sufficient.

There have been several minor nuisances abated during the year, but in no case has legal proceedings been necessary, an intimation to the owner having always sufficed to get it abated.

Upon inquiry, I am told that the new Urinal at Pill is sufficiently used to show that the old one was not sufficient accommodation to meet the present requirements of the public.

The majority of the houses erected during the year have been of a size, &c., to suit the middle classes, thereby leaving the poorer classes in the same condition as last year, living in some instances in small, damp houses.

A row of small houses being erected at Birdwell, Long Ashton, will, no doubt, be appreciated by the working classes of that district, but it is a pity the backlets of these houses are rather small.

There have been two cases of overcrowding in the District that have needed attention ; the people involved have now removed to more suitable dwellings.

The Sewer at the Whitening Yard became choked and had to be cleansed during the early part of the year.

Upon inspection the Dairies are found to be kept clean throughout the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. E. WILLIAMS,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

YATTON, *January 20th, 1905.*

**TABLE I.**  
**LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**  
**FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.**

Year. 1	Population estimated to middle of each year. 2	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Deaths in Public Institu- tions. 9	Deaths of Non- residents register'd in District. 10	Deaths of residents register'd beyond District. 11	Nett Deaths at all ages.				
		Number. 3	* Rate. 4	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					Number. 12	*Rate. 13			
				Number. 5	Rate per 1,000 Births registered. 6	Number. 7	*Rate. 8								
1894	28455	679	23.86	75	110.45	408	14.33	62	...	...	408	14.33			
1895	28655	733	23.57	63	85.94	419	14.62	58	...	...	419	14.62			
1896	26450	728	27.52	57	78.02	377	14.25	48	...	...	377	14.25			
1897	26500	780	29.43	59	77.50	382	14.41	55	...	...	382	14.41			
1898	19405	425	21.38	39	91.76	253	13.03	45	...	...	253	13.03			
1899	19116	370	19.35	39	105.40	227	11.87	15	...	...	227	11.87			
1900	19116	373	19.41	29	77.74	223	11.66	19	...	...	223	11.66			
1901	15689	381	24.28	32	83.98	200	12.74	14	...	...	200	12.74			
1902	15689	345	21.98	25	72.46	230	14.65	21	...	...	230	14.65			
1903	15689	352	22.43	20	56.81	195	12.42	16	...	...	195	12.42			
Averages for years 1894-03	{ 21476	517	23.32	44	84.00	291	13.40	35	...	...	291	13.40			
1904	15689	398	25.30	51	128.14	242	15.42	26	...	...	242	15.42			

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	Total population at all ages ...	...	15689
	Number of inhabited houses ...	...	3395
	Average number of persons per house	5	At Census of 1901.



**TABLE II**  
**LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.**

Names of Localities.	BEDMINSTER DISTRICT.				1 LONG ASHTON DISTRICT.				2 ST. GEORGE'S DISTRICT.				3 YATTON DISTRICT.				
	Year.	Population estimat'd to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimat'd to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimat'd to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimat'd to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
1894	10000	318	127	28	6835	141	126	14	6981	107	100	24	4639	113	55	9	
1895	10200	331	129	36	6835	159	124	11	6981	112	74	6	4639	131	92	10	
1896	7995	336	95	33	6835	151	104	10	6981	124	72	5	4639	117	106	9	
1897	8045	294	89	30	6835	148	112	19	6981	135	71	3	4639	203	110	7	
1898	950	27	14	3	6835	161	120	14	6981	116	50	7	4639	121	69	15	
1899	...	...	...	...	7496	134	96	15	6981	107	51	5	4639	129	80	19	
1900	...	...	...	...	7496	152	98	11	6981	104	69	8	4639	117	56	10	
1901	...	...	...	...	6744	154	76	11	4373	97	76	11	4572	130	48	10	
1902	...	...	...	...	6744	145	99	8	4373	85	68	8	4572	115	63	9	
1903	...	...	...	...	6744	148	81	5	4373	103	55	11	4572	101	59	4	
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903 ...	7438	261	91	26	68903	149	104	12	6199	109	69	9	4619	128	74	10	
1904		...	..	...	...	6744	161	105	17	4373	125	68	16	4572	112	60	18



TABLE III.

## LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1904.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each locality.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1 H A	2 B	3 C	1 A	2 B	3 C	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards							
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria ...	...	14	...	1	7	4	2	...	3	...	II	...	...	
Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	...	70	2	20	34	8	6	...	40	14	16	...	I	
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric Fever ...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
 Totals ...	...	88	2	21	42	12	11	...	44	14	30	...	I	...

*Isolation Hospital.* There is one near the Workhouse, Long Ashton, which might be used for the District.



**TABLE IV.**  
**LONG ASHTON RURAL DISTRICT.**  
**CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1904.**

Causes of Death. 1	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.								Deaths in or belonging to Localities [at all Ages].			Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District 12
	All Ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and up- wards 8	A 9	B 10	C 11		
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Whooping Cough ...	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Fever { Enteric ...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	
Fever { Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Epidemic Influenza ...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diarrhoea ...	...	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	3	
Enteritis ...	...	3	2	...	...	...	I	...	I	I	...	
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other Septic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Phthisis ...	...	I3	...	...	5	8	...	4	5	4	3	
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	...	2	...	...	I	I	...	...	I	...	...	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	...	I8	...	...	...	8	10	11	3	4	2	
Bronchitis ...	...	9	4	...	...	3	2	...	3	6	...	
Pneumonia ...	...	I3	2	2	...	8	I	4	5	4	...	
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Alcoholism {	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cirrhosis of Liver {	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Venereal Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Premature Birth ...	...	I6	I6	...	...	...	...	5	8	3	I	
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	
Heart Diseases ...	...	27	...	...	2	...	7	18	10	8	9	
Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Inquests ...	...	9	3	...	...	2	2	8	...	I	...	
All other causes ...	...	I22	I6	2	3	4	31	66	60	33	29	
All Causes ...	...	242	51	4	7	12	68	100	105	68	69	
											26	

**TABLE V.**

*Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1904, for the Rural District of Long Ashton.*

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOME WORK.

- 1.—Number of Inspectors ... ... ... ... ... Nil.
- 2.—Defects Found ... ... ... ... ... Nil.
- 3.—Homework—Number of Lists received, 3; Number of Outworkers, 8; Addresses of Outworkers received from other Authorities, 8.

